

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,401,127 to Littleford.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,401,127 to Littleford in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,489,275 to Thompson et al.

Claims 2, 6, 10, and 13-15 are allowed over the prior art of record.

In response thereto, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 12 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, claims 2, 6, 10, and 13-15 are now pending and are allowed.

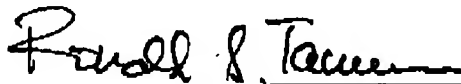
CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

12/28/04

Date



Ronald S. Tamura, Reg. No. 43,179
Patent Attorney for Applicant

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 36802